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May 27, 2019 - SINE DIE

Thank you for subscribing to my e-newsletter. This is a special Sine Die edition highlighting the final achievements of the 86th Session.

This afternoon, the Texas House adjourned Sine Die for the 86th Legislative Session. This brings to close a very successful session for public education in Texas. We were able to fully transform public school finance into a much more equitable and efficient system.

I would like to take a quick minute to thank each of my staff members for their hard work and dedication over the last 140 days. To Amy Peterson, Andrea Sheridan, Casey Christman, Jack Reed, Chandler Skolnick, Lily Trieu, Laura Villegas, Soren Ettinger DeCou, Kris Maxymillian, Hailey Hollowell, Praveena Javvadi and Abby Caldwell - THANK YOU! This session was only successful because of our hard work and dedication.

Below you will find information and updates on the three priority bills of the session, HB 1, the Budget; SB 2, for property tax reform; and, of course, HB 3, for public school finance reform. Please take a minute to look over the provided information and please let us know if you have any questions.

Should you have questions regarding anything in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us directly using the information provided at the bottom of this email.

Sincerely,



Updates from Austin

86th Session: Adjourned Sine Die

The Texas House adjourned Sine Die this afternoon. I was honored to serve as the Chair of the Committee to Notify the Governor that we had completed our business. Speaker

Bonnen appointed me to the position and I am grateful for the opportunity.

It has been a pleasure working with Governor Abbott throughout this session. He has been a true leader and honest champion for public education.



HB 3: Conference Committee Report Adopted



Rep. Ken King

Late Saturday night, both the Texas House and Senate adopted the final Conference Committee Report for HB 3, effectively passing transformational public school finance reform for all Texans.

I want to send a very sincere thank you to my conferees for HB 3. We made a really great team. Each of you contributed so much to the success of this legislation and I am grateful for your dedication and service.

Pictured left to right: Chairman Dan Huberty, Vice Chairman Diego Bernal, Rep. Mary Gonzalez, Rep. Trent Ashby &

HB 3: The Texas Plan

THE TEXAS HOUSE & SENATE PRESENT:

THE TEXAS PLAN

FOR SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

PROPERTY TAX **RELIEF**. RECAPTURE **REDUCTION**. EDUCATION **REFORM**.



\$4.5 BILLION
FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL
EDUCATION REFORMS

PUTS MORE MONEY INTO CLASSROOMS TO ACCELERATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Significantly increases the Basic Allotment per student
- Funds full-day Pre-K for low income students
- Adopts high-quality K-3 reading standards so students read at grade level by 3rd grade
- Creates the first dyslexia identification program in Texas history
- Accelerates student achievement via College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR) outcomes bonuses, dual-language programs, and extended year summer programs for students
- Creates a "Do Not Hire" registry to protect children in the classroom
- Funds transportation at a rate of \$1.00/mile and quadruples funding for building and equipping new facilities
- Directs more funds to schools with higher concentrations of under-served students, including dropouts, students in special education, and residential treatment facilities
- And more!



OVER \$5 BILLION
IN PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

INCREASES THE STATE'S SHARE OF EDUCATION FUNDING TO LOWER PROPERTY TAXES

- Provides over \$5 billion in statewide property tax relief
- Lowers school property tax rates by an average of 8 cents in 2020 and 13 cents in 2021
- Provides an additional 2.5% tax compression starting in 2021
- Ensures taxpayer dollars are used responsibly by requiring districts to conduct efficiency audits before going to voters with a tax increase
- Increases the state's share of education funding from 38% to 45%



\$3.6 BILLION*
RECAPTURE REDUCTION

MODERNIZES OUTDATED SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULAS TO REDUCE RECAPTURE

- Reduces recapture payments by \$3.6 billion, a 47% reduction this biennium
- Increases equity within the school finance system
- Gives ISDs the ability to keep more of the money they earn from their local property taxes

*Not an appropriation. The reduction in recapture is a cumulative effect of the \$11.6B investment made in HB 3 to buy down property taxes and reform school finance formulas.



\$2 BILLION
FOR DYNAMIC TEACHER
COMPENSATION

ENERGIZES TEACHER PAY & INVESTS IN PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE TEACHER QUALITY

- Compensates educators as true professionals by unleashing over \$2 billion in dynamic pay raises for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses
- Creates a merit/incentive pay program for high-quality educators to receive additional pay
- Increases the minimum teacher salary schedule
- Invests in professional development and mentoring programs for new teachers

HOUSE BILL 3:

Meeting the educational needs of today's students and tomorrow's workforce.

#THETIMEISNOW

THE TEXAS HOUSE & SENATE PRESENT: THE COMPENSATION COMPROMISE

INCREASING COMPENSATION FOR EDUCATORS

TYPE OF COMPENSATION	INVESTMENT PER BIENNIUM
Dedicated Funds for Raises	\$1.6 Billion
TRS Contributions from House Bill 3	\$510/educator
TRS Contributions from Senate Bill 12	\$412/educator

**INVESTING OVER \$2 BILLION THIS BIENNIUM TO INCREASE COMPENSATION FOR
TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, COUNSELORS, AND NURSES,
PRIORITIZING VETERAN EDUCATORS**

DIRECTING FUNDS FOR EDUCATOR PAY INCREASES

- Over **\$1.6 billion** per biennium dedicated to providing raises for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses, with an emphasis on retaining our veteran educators

WORKS WITH ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A SECURE RETIREMENT

- **\$510 per educator** in average retirement benefits through House Bill 3
- **\$412 per employee** in average new retirement benefits through Senate Bill 12

INCENTIVIZES EDUCATORS & PROMOTES TEACHER QUALITY

- **\$140 million** for a merit/incentive pay program that allows educators to earn additional money based on performance, experience, and merit
- **\$30 million** annually for an extended year program that rewards teachers who work an additional 30 days in the summer
- **\$8 million** for mentoring new teachers
- **\$6 million** toward professional development for teachers in blended learning instruction

#THETIMEISNOW

Governor Abbott: Statement On Passage Of HB 3

Governor Greg Abbott issued the following statement after the Texas legislature passed House Bill 3 to reform school finance in Texas.

"In my inaugural address I said that this will be the session we enact historical school finance reform by putting more money into the classroom, paying our teachers more, reducing recapture and cutting property taxes. Tonight, without a court order, the legislature did just that by passing one of the most transformative educational bills in recent Texas history. There has never been a more critical time to prioritize the needs of our students, and this bill shows that as leaders of this state, we follow through on our commitment to Texas' children by proving greater opportunity for all.

Representative Huberty and Senator Taylor, in addition to the members of the School Finance Commission, were vital to House Bill 3's passage. They worked tirelessly with the rest of the legislature to develop the innovative and dynamic ideas that will benefit Texas students for decades to come. Finally, this would not have been possible without the collaboration and hard work of Lt. Governor Patrick and Speaker Bonnen, who brought their chambers together in a bipartisan fashion to shepherd this bill through the legislative process. I look forward to signing

HB 1: The Texas Budget

EDUCATION & PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

- \$5 billion in property tax relief
- \$4.5 billion for transformational education reforms
- \$2 billion for dynamic teacher compensation
- \$500 million in increased formula funds for all higher education institutions
- \$219m for various special education programs to comply with federal maintenance of financial support
- \$80 million to maintain TEXAS Grants

SCHOOL SAFETY

- \$200 million for school safety improvements including building renovations, added security personnel and technology, emergency response training and more
- \$10.93 million to Santa Fe ISD for improvements in response to the school shooting

RETIRED TEACHERS

- \$589 million to TRS to provide retired teachers with a \$2,000 13th check on average
- \$524 million to make TRS stable and solvent
- \$230.8 million to cover shortfalls and ensure retired teachers' healthcare premiums do not increase

HURRICANE HARVEY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Over \$2 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) to the Governor's office for disaster grants, the Flood Infrastructure Fund, school districts, higher education institutions, the General Land Office, Soil and Water Conservation Board and Texas Parks and Wildlife for Hurricane Harvey related expenditures
- \$638 million for local matching funds for FEMA Hazard Mitigation and Public Assistance grants related to Hurricane Harvey damage
- \$47 million for state flood risk mapping at the Water Development Board

SEXUAL ASSAULT & HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

- \$56.6 million to eliminate the rape kit backlog and increase crime lab capacity
- \$8.6 million for rape crisis centers and sexual assault nurse examiners to the Office of the Attorney General
- \$27.8 million for human and child sex trafficking investigative squads, antigang squads, and regional human trafficking investigative squads at the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- \$5.5 million for anti human trafficking enforcement unit at the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)
- \$3.4 million for the expansion of the Human Trafficking Prevention section at the Office of the Attorney General
- \$1.5 million for the creation of a Human Trafficking Team and to increase inspections of establishments with a high risk for human trafficking at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

BORDER SECURITY

- Maintains the 18-19 levels of funding for Border Security Efforts
- \$5 million from the ESF to Texas Parks and Wildlife for equipment to improve game wardens' communication statewide
- \$7.5 million to DPS for Operation Draw Bridge Cameras and 4 analysts for the Transnational Intelligence Center
- \$1.7 million in grants for border prosecution, border zone fire departments and economic development

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES & MENTAL HEALTH

- Covers shortfalls in Medicaid, foster care, women's health, state hospitals, state supported living centers, and correctional managed health care
- 24.3% increase in women's health funding over 18-19 levels
- \$86 million in rate increases for community care and Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) providers, pediatric home therapists, and pediatric private duty nursing
- \$48 million for rate increases and cost growth for Early Childhood Intervention.
- \$11.7 million for salary increases to hire and retain Adult Protective Services workers
- Supports Community Based Care expansion for foster care
- \$7.7 billion for behavioral health and substance abuse services
- Almost \$8m to the Department of State Health Services to include testing for X-ALD (adrenoleukodystrophy) in newborn screening

DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM

\$210 million for the driver's license program to reduce wait times, improve customer service, hire new employees, and add three additional driver's license offices

TRANSPORTATION

- \$6.1 billion to TxDOT for non-tolled highway construction
- \$86 million to TxDOT for building, construction, and deferred maintenance

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Fully appropriates the sporting goods sales tax to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (94%) and the Texas Historical Commission (6%)
- Provides additional pipeline inspectors and more resources for abandoned well-plugging at the Railroad Commission

MISC.

- \$25 million from the ESF to the Texas Historical Commission for Courthouse Preservation Grants to repair and restore county courthouses throughout Texas

Note: this summary includes select highlights from house bill 1 and Senate bill 500, and is not comprehensive.

THE TEXAS HOUSE AND SENATE PRESENT:
the **TEXAS BUDGET**

BY REMAINING UNDER ALL FOUR SPENDING LIMITS, THE TEXAS BUDGET TAKES A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO MEETING THE STATE'S PRIORITIES

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THE TEXAS HOUSE AND SENATE PRESENT:
the **TEXAS BUDGET**

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NOTE: THIS SUMMARY INCLUDES SELECT HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOUSE BILL 1 AND SENATE BILL 500, AND IS NOT COMPREHENSIVE.

SB 2: The Texas Property Tax Reform & Transparency Act

THE TEXAS HOUSE & SENATE PRESENT:

THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX REFORM & TRANSPARENCY ACT

GIVES TAXPAYERS THE TOOLS TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR PROPERTY TAXES

INCREASES TRANSPARENCY FOR TAXPAYERS

- Improves communication between taxing units and taxpayers
- Adds real-time tax notices that allow taxpayers to timely engage in the rate-setting process
- Informs taxpayers who has proposed a rate increase, by how much, and when and where to protest
- Provides an online form for taxpayers to communicate their position on proposed rates and submit it to the appropriate taxing unit
- Increases financial disclosures from taxing units
- Expands opportunities to protest or appeal appraisal values
- Requires notices from appraisal districts to be issued electronically

EMPOWERS VOTERS

EMPOWERS VOTERS TO AUTHORIZE HIGHER PROPERTY TAX RATES

- Eliminates burdensome requirements that force voters to gather signatures to petition for an election
- Automatically triggers a November election when taxes are raised above the voter approval rate
- Ensures taxing units that exceed the voter approval rate are equipped to meet the November election date deadline

THIS LEGISLATION PROVIDES PROPERTY TAX REFORM, AND WORKS WITH THE TEXAS PLAN FOR SCHOOL FINANCE TO PROVIDE UP TO \$5 BILLION IN PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.

THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX REFORM & TRANSPARENCY ACT:

FOSTERS COLLABORATION
between taxpayers & government in budgeting for their community

PROTECTS PROPERTY OWNERS
from seeing their property value increase when protesting at the appraisal review board level

SLOWS RATE GROWTH
by lowering the voter approval rate from 8% to 3.5% for most taxing units

ENCOURAGES FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
by allowing units that stay under the voter approval rate to use the unused amount to raise the rate within 3 years

IMPROVES EFFECTIVENESS & EFFICIENCY
by creating a Property Tax Advisory Board to make ongoing recommendations to improve the property tax system

THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX REFORM & TRANSPARENCY ACT: **INFORMS. ENGAGES. EMPOWERS.**

Increases Transparency For Taxpayers:

- Gives taxpayers the tools to make informed decisions about their property taxes
- Improves communication between taxing units and taxpayers
- Adds real-time tax notices that allow taxpayers to timely engage in the rate-setting process
- Informs taxpayers who has proposed a rate increase, by how much, and when and where to protest
- Provides an online form for taxpayers to communicate their position on proposed rates and submit it to the appropriate taxing unit
- Increases financial disclosures from taxing units
- Expands opportunities to protest or appeal appraisal values
- Requires notices from appraisal districts to be issued electronically

Empowers Voters

- Empowers voters to authorize higher property tax rates
- Eliminates burdensome requirements that force voters to gather signatures to petition for an election
- Automatically triggers a November election when taxes are raised above the voter approval rate
- Ensures taxing units that exceed the voter approval rate are equipped to meet the November election date deadline

This legislation provides property tax reform, and works with the Texas plan for school finance to provide up to \$5 billion in property tax relief.

The Texas Property Tax Reform & Transparency Act:

- Fosters collaboration between taxpayers & government in budgeting for their community
- Protects property owners from seeing their property value increase when protesting at the appraisal review board level
- Slows rate growth by lowering the voter approval rate from 8% to 3.5% for most taxing units
- Encourages fiscal responsibility by allowing units that stay under the voter approval rate to use the unused amount to raise the rate within 3 years
- Improves effectiveness & efficiency by creating a Property Tax Advisory Board to make ongoing recommendations to improve the property tax system

TEXAS TAXPAYER TRANSPARENCY ACT

WEBSITE INFORMATION FOR PROPERTY TAXES

Property address: 123 Sycamore Lane
Legal Description: Lot 18 Block C Frosty Acres Sec 2
Property Identification ID: 624387
Market Value: \$280,000

JURISDICTION	TAXABLE VALUE	"NO NEW REVENUE" TAX RATE (PER \$100 OF VALUE)	PROPOSED TAX RATE	TAX ON PROPERTY AT "NO NEW REVENUE" TAX RATE	TAX ON PROPERTY AT PROPOSED TAX RATE	PROPOSED TAX INCREASE	TIME AND DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING	LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY	\$277,000	\$0.38	\$0.40	\$1,052.60	\$1,108.00	\$55.40	8:00 p.m. August 15, 2019	211 Main St. Smith City
*SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$255,000	\$1.38	\$1.38	\$3,519.00	\$3,519.00	\$0.00	6:00 p.m. August 1, 2019	457 Red Rock Ln. Green City
CITY	\$280,000	\$0.47	\$0.52	\$1,316.00	\$1,456.00	\$140.00	2:00 p.m. August 18, 2019	477 Sunny Dr. Smith City
JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT	\$280,000	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	6:00 p.m. August 16, 2019	100 Travis St. Travis City
SPECIAL DISTRICT #1	\$280,000	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$224.00	\$224.00	\$0.00	4:00 p.m. August 18, 2019	309 Calvert Rd. Smith City
Total				\$6,251.60	\$6,447.00	\$195.40		

*The school district "no new revenue tax rate" is one which would generate the same amount of state aid and revenue under current school finance formulas as in the previous year.

NOTE: Clicking on the name of the jurisdiction will launch a web page with the following information:

- Names & contact information for members of the Governing Board
- Historical information for the jurisdiction on general revenues spending
- Historical information for the jurisdiction on property taxes collected and property tax rates for maintenance, operations, and debt service

Governor Abbott: Statement of Passage of SB 2

Governor Greg Abbott issued the following statement after the Texas legislature passed Senate Bill 2 to reform property taxes in Texas.

"For far too long, Texans have seen their property taxes skyrocket as they are reduced to tenants of their own land. Tonight, the Texas legislature took a meaningful step in reinforcing private property rights by reining in the power of local taxing entities, providing more transparency to the property tax process, and enacting long awaited appraisal reforms.

I thank the leadership in both the House and Senate for their work on behalf of Texas taxpayers. As Governor, I look forward to signing this bill into law for all Texans to ensure the Lone Star State remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family."

Military Heroes Honored at Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Ceremony

Governor Greg Abbott delivered remarks at the Texas Legislature's Fallen Heroes Memorial Ceremony at the State Capitol. The Governor recognized the five Texans who lost their lives serving in the United States Armed Forces since 2017, and honored all those who have died in military service since the founding of our nation.

"It is our duty to honor those that died in service to this great nation and sacrificed everything to keep us free," said Governor Abbott. "Our fallen military heroes were more than remarkable soldiers. They were sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, siblings, friends, and members of our communities. May we use today and every day as an opportunity to remember our fallen heroes."



The following heroes were honored in this year's ceremony:

Army Master Sgt. Jonathan Dunbar of Austin, TX died in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in Syria in March 2018.

Army Sgt. Cameron Meddock of Spearman, TX died in a small-arms fire in Afghanistan in January 2019.

Army Specialist Alexander Missildine of Tyler, TX died in an IED attack in Iraq in October 2017.

Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lee M. Smith of Arlington, TX died in a non-combat incident in Iraq in November 2017.

Army Sgt. Allen Levi Stigler Jr. of Arlington, TX died while engaged in combat operations in Iraq in August 2017.

Rep. Huberty's Legislative Agenda

To see a list of Rep. Huberty's filed legislation, [click here](#).

[HJR 3](#) - Proposing a constitutional amendment to provide funding for the cost of maintaining and operating the public school system and to reduce school district ad valorem tax rates through an increase in the state sales and use tax rate.

[HJR 121](#) - Proposing a constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.

[HB 3](#) - Relating to public school finance and public education.

[HB 76](#) - Relating to cardiac assessments of high school participants in extracurricular athletic activities sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.

[HB 734](#) - Relating to the carrying of concealed or holstered handguns by certain handgun license holders attending a meeting of the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school.

[HB 766](#) - Relating to exemptions for disabled peace officers and fire fighters from payment of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.

[HB 791](#) - Relating to the definition of volunteer fire department for purposes of certain motor fuel tax exemptions.

[HB 802](#) - Relating to voting rights and eligibility for office of residents of certain districts subject to a strategic partnership agreement.

[HB 813](#) - Relating to money used by counties that participate in the low-income vehicle repair assistance, retrofit, and accelerated vehicle retirement program.

[HB 831](#) - Relating to the residency requirement to be eligible for public office.

[HB 851](#) - Relating to the use of individual graduation committees and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.

[HB 907](#) - Relating to the penalty for failure to register certain aggregate production operations with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

[HB 908](#) - Relating to the regulation of aggregate production operation by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; increasing an administrative penalty.

[HB 909](#) - Relating to best management practices for aggregate production operations.

[HB 911](#) - Relating to the creation and functions of the Lake Houston Watershed Commission.

[HB 1652](#) - Relating to the public resale by means of a public auction using online bidding and sale of property purchased by a taxing unit at an ad valorem tax sale.

[HB 1671](#) - Relating to water quality protection areas.

[HB 1725](#) - Relating to retired members of the Texas State Guard.

[HB 2795](#) - Relating to a one-time supplemental annuity payment to certain retirees and beneficiaries of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

[HB 2961](#) - Relating to an allotment under the foundation school program for students with

dylexia or related disorders.

[HB 2983](#) - Relating to the administration to public school students in certain grades of state-administered assessment instruments.

[HB 3599](#) - Relating to certain increases in benefits under the firefighters' relief and retirement fund in certain municipalities.

[HB 3904](#) - Relating to public school accountability, including certain assessment requirements, performance standards, and sanctions, including sanctions affecting educator contracts, and to providing alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.

[HB 3906](#) - Relating to the adoption and administration of assessment instruments used to assess the performance of public school students.

[HB 3913](#) - Relating to an exception from required disclosure under the public information law for certain personal information obtained by certain flood control districts.

[HB 3967](#) - Relating to access to certain health information of public school students during an emergency evacuation.

[HB 4334](#) - Relating to the creation of the office of inspector general at the Texas Education Agency to investigate the administration of public education.

[HB 4335](#) - Relating to the assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes imposed by a school district.

[HB 4611](#) - Relating to certain distributions to the available school fund.

[HB 4621](#) - Relating to the imposition of sales and use taxes and the allocation of certain revenue from sales and use taxes to school district property tax relief and public education; authorizing the imposition of a tax.

Constituent Resources

Need Assistance?

Our office is always ready to assist you. Call or email us and we will do our best to help. Many State Agencies also have hotlines or citizen assistance offices to assist you. That contact information is available at this link, in alphabetical order:

<http://www.lrl.texas.gov/genInfo/stateAgencies.cfm>

Live Updates

All of the relevant information our office has gathered during the week will be posted to our Facebook page. By "liking" us, you will stay up-to-date about important matters across the state that affect you and your family. Click below to find our page.



Contact Information

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